

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,633,865 to Short. Claims 2-19 and 21-31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Additional art was cited of interest.

Applicants and applicants' counsel note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter concerning claims 2-19 and 21-31.

In accordance with the present response, allowable dependent claims 2, 6 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claims 1 and 20, respectively. Claims 7-10 have been amended to depend on claim 6. Claims 29-31 have been amended to depend on claim 21. Claims 1, 20, 27 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or admission, thereby rendering the prior art rejection of claims 1 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Short moot. A new abstract which more clearly reflects the invention to which the amended claims are directed has been substituted for the previously submitted abstract.

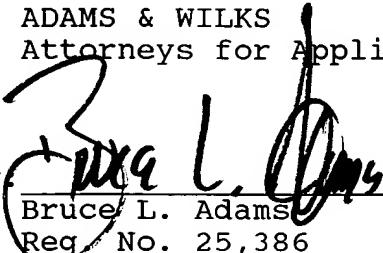
In view of the foregoing amendments, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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September 7, 2005

Date